

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim ~~[[11]]~~ 17, wherein an adjusting screw of the pressure piece includes the pressure compensation element.

Claim 13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim ~~[[13]]~~ 17, wherein an adjusting screw of the pressure piece is formed of a porous sintered material.

Claim 15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim ~~[[15]]~~ 17, wherein one of (a) the housing and (b) the adjusting screw of the pressure piece includes ~~[[a]]~~ the cutout adapted to dimensions of the sintered plastic insert and arranged to accommodate the sintered plastic insert.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A rack-and-pinion steering system according to ~~claim 15, for motor vehicles, comprising:~~

a pinion;

a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing, the rack including two ends, each end articulatedly connected to a respective steering tie rod;

a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant engagement;

a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and on another side to the steering tie rods; and

at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure piece;

wherein the pressure compensation element is configured as a porous sintered plastic insert; and

wherein the sintered plastic insert is arranged as a pressed pellet is pressable into ~~[[the]]~~ a cutout.

18. (Previously Presented) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 17, wherein the pressed pellet is formed from ground granules joined to one another by sintering.

19. (Previously Presented) The rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 18, wherein at least one of (a) air permeability values and (b) liquid retention capacity is influenceable by at least one of (a) a size and (b) a shape of the granules.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A rack-and-pinion steering system according to claim 11, for motor vehicles, comprising:

a pinion;

a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing, the rack including two ends, each end articulately connected to a respective steering tie rod;

a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant engagement;

a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and on another side to the steering tie rods; and

at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure piece;

wherein the pressure compensation element is arranged as one of (a) a disk and (b) a diaphragm.

21. (Currently Amended) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:

a pinion;
a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing, the rack including two ends, each end articulately connectable to a respective steering tie rod;
a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant engagement;
a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and fastenable on another side to the steering tie rods; and
at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure piece;
wherein the pressure compensation element is configured as a porous sintered plastic insert; and
wherein the sintered plastic insert is arranged as a pressed pellet is pressable into a cutout.

22. (Currently Amended) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:

pinion means;
rack means longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing means, the rack means including two ends, each end articulately connected to a respective steering tie rod means;
means for maintaining the pinion means and the rack means in constant engagement;
sealing bellows means arranged on one side to the housing means and on another side to the steering rod means; and
at least one pressure compensating means integrated in the steering mechanism housing means, the pressure compensating means integrated in the maintaining means;
wherein the pressure compensation means is configured as a porous sintered plastic insert; and
wherein the sintered plastic insert is arranged as a pressed pellet is pressable into a cutout.

23. (New) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:
a pinion;
a rack longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism housing,
the rack including two ends, each end articulatedly connectable to a respective
steering tie rod;
a pressure piece configured to maintain the pinion and the rack in constant
engagement;
a sealing bellows fastened on one side to the housing and fastenable on
another side to the steering tie rods; and
at least one pressure compensation element integrated in the steering
mechanism housing, the pressure compensation element integrated in the pressure
piece;
wherein the pressure compensation element is arranged as one of (a) a disk
and (b) a diaphragm.

24. (New) A rack-and-pinion steering system for motor vehicles, comprising:
pinion means;
rack means longitudinally displaceably arranged in a steering mechanism
housing means, the rack means including two ends, each end articulatedly
connected to a respective steering tie rod means;
means for maintaining the pinion means and the rack means in constant
engagement;
sealing bellows means arranged on one side to the housing means and on
another side to the steering rod means; and
at least one pressure compensating means integrated in the steering
mechanism housing means, the pressure compensating means integrated in the
maintaining means;
wherein the pressure compensation means is arranged as one of (a) a disk
and (b) a diaphragm.